



SHARPE JAMES  
MAYOR  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY  
07102

June 15, 1999

Mr. Jim Willse, Editor  
The Star-Ledger  
Star-Ledger Plaza  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Mr. Willse:

Once again your reporters have written an inflammatory story based on half-truths and innuendoes to paint a sordid picture of Newark and the new, Newark Bears baseball stadium, which is being prepared for opening day, July 16.

Earlier this week, reporter, George Jordan called my press secretary and posed several questions to her for my comments. These queries dealt with bonding for the stadium, debt payment on the bonds and other financial issues regarding the stadium. After reviewing Mr. Jordan's questions, I called Bill Abele, executive director of the Essex County Improvement Authority, for clarification of several of the items raised. I believe that Mr. Abele very thoroughly answered the questions posed by your reporter in the attached fax information sheet sent to Mr. Jordan and copied to Diane Walsh, your Essex County reporter, and Pamela Goldstein, my press secretary. In fact, Mr. Abele told me that last week he had verbally given Ms. Walsh the information included in the memorandum to Mr. Jordan.

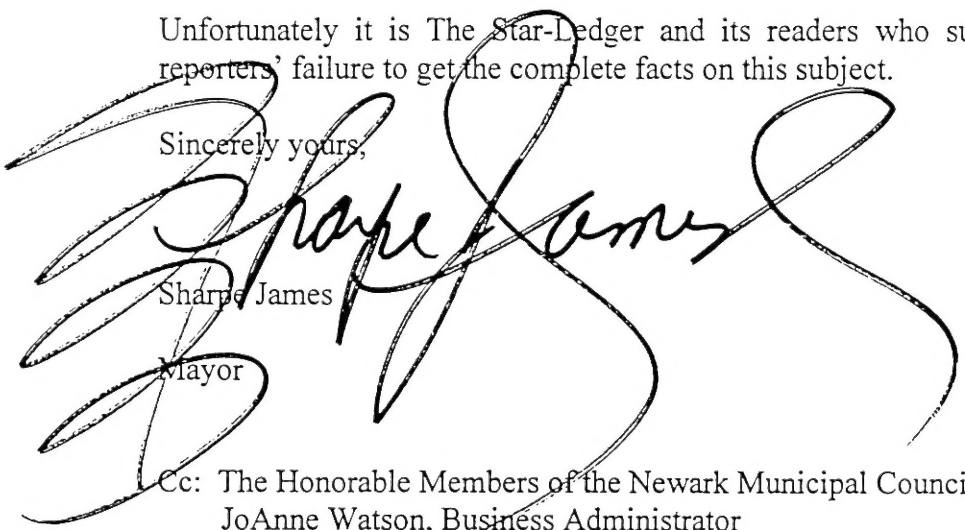
I do not want to go over point by point how the article, *The costlier house that Essex built*, that appears in today's (Wednesday, June 16) Star-Ledger, differs from the factual information provided in Mr. Abele's memo. It appears that your reporters had already made up their minds as to how this article should proceed with total disregard for the facts. Suffice it to say, the Ledger once again has portrayed the City of Newark and this very popular project unjustly by publishing this biased and incomplete report.

Unfortunately, your reporters totally disregarded the information provided by Mr. Abele, preferring in fact to report that "...Newark's minor-league baseball stadium has ballooned to \$33.9 million," when Mr. Abele clearly points out in his memorandum that \$4.6 million of that amount was allocated to the replacement park in the Ironbound. This reference was not even mentioned until the very last paragraph of today's article.

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Unfortunately it is The Star-Ledger and its readers who suffer the most from your reporters' failure to get the complete facts on this subject.

Sincerely yours,



Sharpe James

Mayor

Cc: The Honorable Members of the Newark Municipal Council  
JoAnne Watson, Business Administrator  
The Hon. Jim Treffinger, Essex County Executive  
The Hon. Members of the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders  
William Abele, Executive Director, Essex County Improvement Authority  
Richard Everett, Managing Editor  
Mark Di Ionno, Assistant Managing Editor  
George Jordan, Reporter  
Diane Walsh, Reporter

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